

Application No. 10/810,554

Docket No. 86421-39

Amendments to the Claims: This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A skate boot for enclosing a human foot of a player, the human foot having a forefoot and a front ankle portion, said skate boot having a tongue comprising:
 - a) a first section covering the forefoot of the foot;
 - b) a second section connected to said first section via a flexing zone, said flexing zone enabling said second section to be movable between a first position ~~and a second position in relation to said first section, wherein~~
 - i) ~~in said first position, in which~~ said second section covers a portion of the front ankle portion of the foot; and
 - ii) ~~in said a second position, in which~~ said second section overlaps a portion of said first section, wherein, in use, the player can fold said second section over said first section for wearing said boot with said tongue in said second position.
2. (Previously presented) A skate boot as defined in claim 1, wherein said first section, said second section and said flexing zone are integrally formed.
3. (Previously presented) A skate boot as defined in claim 2, wherein said first section is of a first thickness, said second section is of a second thickness and said flexing zone is of a third thickness, wherein said third thickness is less than said first thickness and said second thickness.
4. (Previously presented) A skate boot as defined in claim 3, wherein said flexing zone comprises a V-shaped groove.

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5. (Previously presented) A skate boot as defined in claim 4, wherein said second section comprises at least one flexing region for enabling said second section to expand laterally as it moves from said first position to said second position.
6. (Previously presented) A skate boot as defined in claim 5, wherein said flexing region is of a fourth thickness, wherein said fourth thickness is less than said first thickness and said second thickness.
7. (Previously presented) A skate boot as defined in claim 6, wherein said flexing region comprises a groove extending substantially perpendicular to said flexing zone.
8. (Previously presented) A skate boot as defined in claim 4, wherein said tongue is formed of multiple layers of material.
9. (Previously presented) A skate boot as defined in claim 8, wherein said tongue comprises a first layer attached to a second layer.
10. (Previously presented) A skate boot as defined in claim 9, wherein one of said first and second layers is made of foam.
11. (Previously presented) A skate boot as defined in claim 9, wherein both said first and said second layers are made of foam.
12. (Previously presented) A skate boot as defined in claim 11, wherein said first layer comprises an inner surface facing the foot, said first layer having a first density, said second layer having a second density, said second density being greater than said first density.

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13. (Previously presented) A skate boot as defined in claim 11, wherein said foam is selected from the group consisting of ethylene vinyl acetate (EVA) foam, polyethylene foam, ethylene polypropylene foam and polyurethane foam.
14. (Previously presented) A skate boot as defined in claim 8, wherein said first section, said second section and said flexing zone are integrally formed.
15. (Previously presented) A skate boot as defined in claim 14, wherein said first section is of a first thickness, said second section is of a second thickness and said flexing zone is of a third thickness, wherein said third thickness is less than said first thickness and said second thickness.
16. (Previously presented) A skate boot as defined in claim 15, wherein said flexing zone comprises a V-shaped groove.
17. (Previously presented) A skate boot as defined in claim 16, wherein said second section comprises at least one flexing region for enabling said second section to expand laterally as it moves from said first position to said second position.
18. (Previously presented) A skate boot as defined in claim 17, wherein said flexing region is of a fourth thickness, wherein said fourth thickness is less than said first thickness and said second thickness.
19. (Previously presented) A skate boot as defined in claim 18, wherein said flexing region comprises a groove extending substantially perpendicular to said flexing zone.
20. (New) A skate boot for enclosing a foot of a player, the foot having a forefoot and a front ankle portion, said skate boot having a tongue and an ankle portion with upper eyelets, said tongue comprising:

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- a) a first section covering the forefoot of the foot;
- b) a second section connected to said first section via a flexing zone, said flexing zone being located slightly above said upper eyelets and enabling said second section to be movable between a first position, in which said second section covers a portion of the front ankle portion of the foot; and a second position, in which said second section overlaps a portion of said first section, wherein, in use, the player can fold said second section over said first section for wearing said boot with said tongue in said second position whereby further protection for a portion of the forefoot is provided.

21. (New) A skate boot as defined in claim 20, wherein said flexing zone comprises a V-shaped groove.

22. (New) A skate boot as defined in claim 21, wherein said second section comprises at least one flexing region for enabling said second section to expand laterally as it moves from said first position to said second position.

23. (New) A skate boot as defined in claim 21, said tongue comprises a first layer attached to a second layer, said first and second layers being made of foam.

24. (New) A skate boot as defined in claim 24, wherein said first layer comprises an inner surface facing the foot, said first layer having a first density, said second layer having a second density, said second density being greater than said first density.

25. (New) A skate boot as defined in claim 20, wherein said flexing zone is a first flexing zone, said tongue further comprising a second flexing zone located below said first flexing zone.